



**CITY OF CARLSBAD**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
Office of the Chief of Police

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## ***POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS***

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### **CARLSBAD POLICE OFFERS HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS**

With the holiday season in full swing, Carlsbad Police Department would like to remind residents of things that they can do to reduce the chance of being a crime victim during this time of the year when crimes of opportunity, such as burglary and theft, generally increase.

#### **While shopping...**

- Go to stores and areas that you are familiar with and where you feel safe.
- Shop with a friend.
- Don't be distracted with your list of things to do -- plan ahead.
- Be cautious about your purse, wallet, and receipts and never leave them unattended.
- Park your car carefully and lock it. If you are going to return to your car after dark, consider lighting and bushes, and be aware of the vehicles parked nearby.
- Don't overload yourself with packages.
- If you put packages in your car and plan to continue shopping, move your car.
- Don't leave valuables in view in your car, especially iPods, navigators, satellite radios, or personal items like purses and wallets that if stolen, could result in identity theft.
- Be alert to who is around you. If you do not like what you see, go back the way you came or take a different route.
- Don't be afraid to ask security or a store clerk for help or to ask mall security for an escort to your car.

#### **At home....**

- Be careful about what you display in your front window. A beautiful tree with lots of presents creates an opportunity for crime.
- Consider the physical security of your home and call the police department crime prevention unit at 760-931-2105 for advice.
- Shut and lock all your doors and windows when leaving for holiday gatherings or even a quick trip to the store.
- It is getting dark sooner so put inside and outside lights on timers or light sensors. A house sitting dark in the evening tells criminals that no one is home.
- Engrave holiday gifts such as electronic equipment, and tools with your California Driver license number. Videotape items that are hard to engrave such as jewelry.

#### **Leaving Town.....**

- Two weeks before leaving, call the police department at 760-931-2214 for a vacation security consultation. The goal is to make your house look like you are still at home.

Finally, don't let the holiday rush distract you – take the time to secure your house, garage and car.

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